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PP RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNAG RUEHNH  
DE RUEHKO #2488 3010000  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 280000Z OCT 09  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7109  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
RHMMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RHMMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY  
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 7128  
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 9484  
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 4376  
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 7640  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 0946  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1599  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 3064  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 8256  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 7773  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 002488

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR, EAP/J, EAP/P,  
PM;  
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;  
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;  
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;  
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OITP KMDR KPAO JA

SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - AFGHANISTAN AND U.S.-CHINA  
RELATIONS

**¶1.** LEAD STORIES: Most Wednesday morning papers led with reports on yesterday's collision between an MSDF destroyer and an ROK freighter in the Kanmon Strait in Fukuoka.

**¶2.** "Run-off Election Must Be Fair" On the upcoming run-off presidential race in Afghanistan, the liberal Mainichi editorialized (10/28): "Just as in the first round, massive election fraud, as well as obstruction by Islamic radicals such as the Taliban, is anticipated in the run-off. A confrontation over the legitimacy of the race cannot be avoided regardless of whether President Karzai or former Foreign Minister Abdullah is elected.... Afghan authorities will be required to make an all-out effort to conduct a fair poll at a time when war-weariness is mounting in the U.S. and Europe, which have committed troops to Afghanistan, and when 'assistance fatigue' is emerging within the international community."

**¶3.** "Chinese Military Leader Stresses Confidence Building in Session with Top Pentagon Official" On Secretary of Defense Gates's meeting with visiting Vice Chairman of China's Central Military Commission General Xu in Washington on Tuesday, the conservative Sankei wrote (10/28): "The U.S. is worried about the current situation in which China is continuing its arms buildup aimed at increasing deterrence against the U.S., including the development of a long-range ballistic missile capable of reaching all of North America. Washington is poised to call for increased transparency in China's defense policy and its military operation through enhanced military exchanges.... The Chinese are well aware of the U.S.'s intent, with the main purpose of General Xu's visit to the U.S. being to prevent U.S. concerns from mounting. A Chinese source based in the U.S. holds the view that China is being presented with a great opportunity to highlight 'U.S.-China coordination' in this time of instability in the U.S.-Japan alliance over U.S. force realignment issues."

ROOS